

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CALCUT 00260 301108Z

12

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-02 H-01 SY-04 /021 W

----- 093211

P 301003Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4442

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 0260

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER

PLEASE PASS TO: LEONARD BOUDIN

ELDON JOHNSON

1. BHOSE WITHDREW FROM CASE. PRIOR TO RECEIVING YOUR CABLE RE NO FUNDS FOR INDIAN LAWYERS. I RETAINED AMAL DATTA, ENGLISH-TRAINED BARRISTER, AT FEE OF \$42.00 PER DAY AND PAID HIM RETAINER OF \$256.00. I HAD ALSO PAID BANERJEE \$220.00 AND DUDHWEWALA \$128.00 ON ACCOUNT. ALL THESE PAYMENTS MADE OUT OF THE JOHNSON EXPENSE MONEY WHICH I HAD INTENDED TO APPLY TO FEES SINCE INSUFFICIENT FUNDS IN ACCOUNT HERE. ALL THESE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER PAYMENTS. FUNDS ADVANCED WILL SEE THAT BOYS ARE REPRESENTED THROUGH MAJOR UPCOMING HIGH COURT APPEAL ON ISSUE WHETHER DOCKS ARE PROHIBITED PLACE WITHIN MEANING OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT AND ALSO THROUGH PLEA BARGAINING PHASE DESCRIBED PARA 2. DATTA VERY GOOD AND ALREADY OF MAJOR ASSISTANCE. SORRY ABOUT THIS, BUT YOUR CABLE NOT RECEIVED UNTIL YESTERDAY.

2. SAW CHIEF MINISTER WEST BENGAL LAST FRIDAY. HE SAID HE WOULD FORWARD WRITTEN CONFESSION TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE HE WILL RECOMMEND WITHDRAWAL OF CHARGES. BOYS AGREED YESTERDAY TO SIGN AND DATTA AND I IN PROCESS OF DRAFTING. YESTERDAY ALSO RECEIVED WORD FROM DELHI THAT HOME SECRETARY HAS SUDDENLY AGREED TO SEE ME ON JANUARY 31.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CALCUT 00260 301108Z

I FEEL THIS IS GOOD SIGN AND AM FLYING TO DELHI TOMORROW

WITH DRAFT CONFESSION. THEREAFTER WILL RETURN TO CALCUTTA,
SEEK FINAL APPOINTMENT CHIEF MINISTER TO PRESENT SIGNED
VERSION, THEN BACK TO DELHI FOR ATTEMPT AT INDIRA GANDHI,
THEN HOME. ESTIMATED ARRIVAL U.S. FEBRUARY 14.

3. I AM ACTUALLY FEELING QUITE OPTIMISTIC FOR A CHANGE.
YOU SHOULD REALIZE HOWEVER THAT THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THESE
NEGOTIATIONS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE KNOWN FOR ANOTHER ONE OR
TWO MONTHS. PARENTHETICALLY, I FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD
HAVE RESPONSIBLE LAWYERS ON THE SCENE WHILE ALL THIS
IS GOING ON.

4. FINALLY, PLEASE NOTE THAT IN SIGNING CONFESSION BOYS
ARE RISKING MAXIMUM ADDITIONAL ONE AND HALF YEARS CALCQTTA
JAIL PLUS FINE. NO COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE MADE BY
INDIAN GOVERNMENT AS TO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AND IF ESPIONAGE
CHARGES WITHDRAWN. I FEEL THIS RISK IS JUSTIFIED UNDER
CIRCUMSTANCES AND BOYS HAVE AGREED.
PICKERING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS, COURT PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CALCUT00260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750034-0386
From: CALCUTTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975018/aaaaagjc.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARCOS/FLETCHER PLEASE PASS TO: LEONARD BOUDIN
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN, US, (HARCOS), (FLETCHER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006